

In the Specification:

Replace paragraph beginning on line 34 at page 5 and continuing to line 12 at page 6 with the following paragraph:

The invention relates to a method of preparing a continuous strand mat, the strands coming from at least one roving thrown onto a conveyer belt, in which method:

- at least one roving package supported on a spindle is paid out via the outside, the rate of said pay-out being imposed by a motor unwinding the roving package such that the roving is unwound from the roving package so that the linear speed of the paid-out roving is constant; then

- the roving passes through a nozzle, by passing through an entry and then an exit of the nozzle, said nozzle being also provided with a transverse injection of at least one fluid, said fluid being mainly directed ~~introduced in a direction~~ toward the exit of the nozzle, inducing a tension toward the bottom of the roving, said fluid also dividing the roving; and then

- the strands forming the roving are thrown in an oscillating movement onto said conveyor belt.

Replace paragraph beginning on line 19 at page 6 with the following paragraph:

The invention also relates to an installation for manufacturing mats formed from continuous strands coming from roving packages and thrown onto a conveyor belt, which comprises:

- at least one roving package supported on a spindle;
- a means of paying out the roving coming from the package;
- at least one nozzle through which the roving passes, by passing via an inlet and then an outlet of the nozzle, said nozzle being also provided with a transverse injection of at least one fluid, said fluid being directed ~~introduced in a direction~~ mainly toward the exit of the nozzle, so as to induce a tension in the roving toward the exit;

and

- a means of throwing the strands forming the roving onto said conveyor belt.

Replace the paragraph beginning on line 3 at page 8 with the following paragraph:

The injection of at least one fluid into the nozzle is transverse, between the entry and the exit. The fluid leaves the exit more easily than the entry, as the nozzle creates, with respect to the fluid, a larger head loss at the entry than at the exit. Such a difference in head loss may for example be produced by a difference in opening diameter. In general, the fluid may be compressed air. The pressure of the fluid may for example range from 2 to 10 bar and more generally from 3 to 8 bar. ~~As shown in Fig. 1, the~~ The fluid is mainly introduced in a direction directed toward the exit, which means that more than half of the flux entering leaves via the exit (generally directed downward). The fluid injected into the nozzle has two functions:

- to divide the roving into its constituent strands;
- to induce a slight downward tension in the roving, with the consequence that the fluid leaves more easily in the downward direction than the upward direction.